



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

MORPC IN THE NEWS

June & July 2022

PRESS RELEASES

[More Than \\$30 Million Available for Public Works Projects in Franklin County](#)
[Licking County Joins MORPC](#)

[Licking County Joins MORPC](#)

[MORPC Seeks Public Input on TRAC Projects](#)

[MORPC Amending 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to Reflect Intel Area Infrastructure](#)

[MORPC to Amend 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program to Reflect COTA Changes](#)

AIR QUALITY

ENERGY NEWS NETWORK

[In Ohio, researchers find EPA data doesn't tell the whole story on fracking pollution](#)

The Franklin County Public Health Department and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission also are using the sensors to measure differences in air quality across several zip codes in the Columbus area.

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

[Air quality alert issued for central Ohio](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission issued an air quality alert for Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin and Licking counties.

SCIOTO POST

[Air Quality Alert for Southwest Ohio Counties, Tuesday 6/14/2022](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has issued an Air Quality Alert for ozone pollution for Central Ohio, until 10 PM EDT this evening.

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

[Air Quality Alert issued for multiple central Ohio counties](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission issued an Air Quality Alert for regions of central Ohio remaining in effect into Tuesday night.

ABC6

[Air Quality Alert issued for parts of Central Ohio](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has issued an Air Quality Alert for much of Central Ohio for Tuesday, June 21.

WOSU 89.7 NPR NEWS

[Air quality alert issued for central Ohio](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has issued an air quality alert for today.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Air quality alert issued Tuesday for Franklin County, three other central Ohio counties](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has issued an Air Quality Alert for ozone pollution for Franklin, Delaware, Licking and Fairfield counties, according to the NWS.

1808 DELAWARE

[Air Quality Alert Issued For Today In Central Ohio](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has issued an Air Quality Alert for Saturday, June 25.

ABC 6

[Air Quality Alert issued for parts of Central Ohio for Thursday](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has issued an Air Quality Alert for four Central Ohio counties for Thursday, July 30.

AMTRAK

CLEVELAND.COM

[Letter to the Editor: New Amtrak service in Ohio may be enticing, but has trappings of a boondoggle](#)

The proposed expansion to a new line connecting Cleveland to Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati is very enticing. However, certain state representatives and senators will add other stops (e.g., Akron, Marietta, Toledo) because of county and local lobbying.

SUNNY95

[The Future of Passenger Rail in Central Ohio](#)

Thea Ewing, chief regional development director for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, explains how MORPC and other groups are working to bring passenger trains back to Columbus for the first time since 1979.

DATA & MAPPING

AXIOS COLUMBUS

[Franklin County is young, but getting older](#)

What's ahead: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) expects the area's population growth to return and reach an estimated 3 million residents by 2050.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UNION COUNTY DAILY DIGITAL

[Council, Planning Commission Plan Joint Work Session](#)

During the work session, the Council and the Commission will be perusing a number of items including a residential, economic development and commercial overview of the city, a discussion of the comprehensive plan, a dialogue on the proper procedure for demolition of structures deemed as blight or dangerous and are also expected to hear from a Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission representative, who will speak on the growth of the unprecedented population and economic growth of the Columbus region.

CSP DAILY NEWS

[10 hot metro markets for c-stores in 2022](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission estimates that the Columbus region will gain 1 million new residents by 2050, growing its population by about 50% to around 3 million.

PERRY COUNTY TRIBUNE

[Crooksville considers creating historic district](#)

At a recent Crooksville Village Council meeting Preston Frick, an employee through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) who's working as an intern for the Perry County Commissioners, urged the council to turn a central part of Crooksville into a historic district.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Hilltop RISE will work to boost economic development on West Broad, Sullivant corridors](#)

Close to 15,000 vehicles travel West Broad Street daily past the bank block, according to a 2022 traffic survey by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

NEWARK ADVOCATE

[Licking County Commissioners approve annexations to New Albany, Heath](#)

Bubb was speaking to Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission officials about planning efforts that include a land use and housing study and a water and sewer study.

GOHIO

ABC 6

[Rideshare services could help ease the pain at the pump as gas prices soar](#)

"Companies are calling us, they want consultation, they are wanting to see how they can help their employees get to work. They are wanting carpooling programs and van pooling," said Patty Olmsted, the Senior Business Outreach Coordinator with Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

GREENWAYS

COLUMBUS FREE PRESS

[Riverfest, hosted by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission \[MORPC\]](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), in partnership with Metro Parks and RAPID 5, will celebrate Riverfest at the Columbus Arts Festival, June 11-12.

QFM96

[Arts Festival returns](#)

Metro Parks, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and Rapids are organizing Riverfest during the Festival.

THISWEEK NEWS

[MORPC Matters: We're connecting central Ohio through water](#)

A large part of our work at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is to better understand future growth and development and the impacts they might have on a variety of issues, including water.

THISWEEK NEWS

[City seeking residents' input on how to improve Alum Creek Trail safety, access](#)

The Trail Town assessment event was designed to build on the Bexley Bike Plan that the city adopted in August of 2021, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Rapid 5 project to connect central Ohio's trails and waterways into a cohesive system, as well as other regional efforts that promote increased access to trails and park systems, said Marc Duemmell, who coordinated the July 9 event.

KNOX PAGES

[Ariel-Foundation Park hosts rural trail town series, possible economic impact](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission led the event with officials from Gambier, Granville, Centerburg and Columbus brainstorming ways to bring trails to their municipalities.

INTEL

OHIO STATE NEWS

[As Intel expands into central Ohio, communities must increase housing, planners say](#)

[Jennifer] Noll said statistics compiled by MORPC indicate that central Ohio's current population of 2.4 million residents is on track to grow to 3 million residents by 2050, which the Intel development is likely to expedite.

Also featured on [magifirst.com](#) and [ohiodigitalnews.com](#)

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Licking County housing market: Here's how Intel might change things—or not](#)

"We're all curious to know more, and there are definitely some big unanswered questions," said Jennifer Noll, associate director of community development at Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

Also featured in [ColumbusCEO](#)

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[The Weekly Rundown: NIL upending college football, City Winery boosts south side, preparing for Intel](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is revising its long-range transportation planning playbook in light of Intel's investment in Central Ohio.

LINKUS

WOSU

[COTA's workforce shortage could lead to service changes this fall](#)

Transit Columbus is also working with COTA, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the City of Columbus on a broader transit plan called 'Link Us.'

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[COTA drops plans for sales tax issue in November, seeks \\$300 million for bus rapid transit](#)

Harris didn't rule out going for a sales tax hike after 2022. But for now, COTA is looking at other funding sources for the LinkUS rapid transit initiative along the West Broad Street and East Main Street corridors through Downtown.

WOSU

[COTA drops plans for sales tax share increase](#)

The Central Ohio Transit Authority previously proposed the tax increase to help pay for LinkUS, a program to increase access to rapid transit across Columbus.

NBC 4

[U.S. Sen. Brown, Ohio leaders tour COTA's proposed rapid transit route](#)

Joanna Pinkerton, COTA's chief executive officer, showed Ohio leaders Thursday one of the proposed transit routes included in the proposed LinkUS Rapid Transit plan that would cost nearly \$2 billion by 2030.

COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND

[COTA Decides Not to Pursue Sales Tax Increase This Year](#)

As for the other large partners in the LinkUs initiative – Franklin County, the city of Columbus, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission – Harris said that “there is 100 percent alignment [among the groups] that now is not the right time.”

NBC 4

[Sales tax hike for Ohio rapid public transit dropped from November ballot](#)

Officials estimated a 0.5% sales tax hike, which would raise the current tax from 0.5% to 1.0%, would tack on an extra \$8.33 to central Ohio residents' taxes every month, according to the LinkUS Community Action Plan, a transportation initiative co-sponsored by the city of Columbus, Franklin County, COTA and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

Also featured on ohiodigitalnews.com

COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND

[Downtown Plan: New Visuals Show Redesigned Streets, High-Density Neighborhoods](#)

“I think this would be an amazing transformation, something we can aspire to, something that’s doable,” he said, after talking about the importance of the LinkUs initiative and the need for that project – which calls for multiple corridors with dedicated transit lanes – to move forward despite COTA’s recent decision to not put a sales tax increase on the ballot this year to fund it.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Will higher gas prices bring calls to expand public transit in Ohio? Probably not](#)

A coalition of groups supporting the initiative, which includes the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, identified three routes so far.

MEMBERSHIP

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[Ahead of Intel growth, Licking County joins regional planning commission](#)

Licking County, soon-to-be-home of Intel Corp., has joined the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Columbus City Council to host summit on services for immigrants, refugees](#)

‘We’re a welcoming, inclusive community,’ said Níel Jurist, a spokesperson for MORPC.

“Columbus is growing. And as immigrant, refugee and migrant communities come into the city, we want them to have access to these resources.”

RAPID 5

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Column: It's time to flip the script on faith's role in caring for the Earth](#)

There is a way we can all lift and pull together to be responsible stewards in our care for the part of the Earth upon which God has placed us. We can do it right here and now. We can do it by joining the efforts of the RAPID 5 project.

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[Central Ohio waterways: Why Ohio State's Keith Myers sees big potential in Rapid 5](#)

And rivers will play a key role in one of the other main demands on his time: launching the new Rapid 5 nonprofit as its first chairman.

[Keith Myers on shaping downtown Columbus, its suburbs and Ohio State's campus](#)

Following his upcoming retirement, Myers plans to take on another challenge, overseeing the new Rapid 5 nonprofit as chairman.

[Easton executive to join Rapid 5 nonprofit](#)

The leadership at the Rapid 5 nonprofit continues to grow with the addition of a new chief operating officer.

SUSTAINABILITY

PV MAGAZINE

[SolSmart adds another 60 communities, helping to cut red tape and speed deployment of solar](#)

Two organizations were awarded \$10 million to manage the further expansion of the program, which has already helped hundreds of communities.

WOSU

[Columbus launches first solar co-op to boost community participation in clean energy](#)

Solar United Neighbors and Sustainable Columbus will host free info sessions about solar energy and roof assessments at no charge to home and business owners. Becoming a member is free. IMPACT Community Action, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and Simply Living Residents are also part of the partnership.

ABC 6

[A push for solar panels: Columbus launches new co-op](#)

The city has partnered with Impact Community Action, The Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission and Simply Living for the co-op.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Bexley joins Columbus solar energy cooperative](#)

The cooperative program is the result of years of work by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and Solar United Neighbors, a nationwide network of communities and organizations to make solar energy more accessible to residents and businesses, Kessler said.

TRANSPORTATION

THE DELAWARE GAZETTE

[Traffic light project advancing](#)

Planning for the project began in 2018 with the study and design phase after the city received a \$2.5 million grant from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in 2017.

See also: [Citywide Traffic Signal and Technology Upgrade Continues](#) (City of Delaware, Ohio)

THISWEEK NEWS

[Bexley, Columbus moving forward with Joint Livingston Avenue Plan](#)

"The next step that we are taking jointly is we are going after federal transportation dollars through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission," Scocco said. "We are working on a joint application where Bexley will be the lead applicant."

THISWEEK NEWS

[MORPC Matters: Partnerships advancing transportation for rural central Ohio communities](#)

Through the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is working closely with rural members to build trust and ensure they are receiving the support and guidance necessary to help them make these important improvements.

1808 DELAWARE

[MORPC Amending Transportation Plan To Reflect Intel Infrastructure](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), of which Delaware County is a member, has made available for review and comment a proposed amendment to the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

WESTSIDE MESSENGER

[Prairie Township officials discuss projects that need funding](#)

Grant funding would be needed, and leadership is going to look into funding through OPWC and MORPC.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[COTA board to vote in August on capital budget, extending C-pass in Short North](#)

COTA received \$3.75 million in federal funds through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and a \$1 million state grant to help pay for the transit center, said Andy Biesterveld, COTA's chief engineering and mechanical officer.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[City seeks opinions on resurfacing Zollinger, Redding roads in Upper Arlington](#)

"This stretch of roadway (Zollinger from Riverside to North Star) has been identified by MORPC as an important east-west connector for bikes."